with all branches of Government. These should not have any special bearing on his future responsibilities as Ambassador in India.

**Revision of existing visa system by US Government**

4455. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Government has recently reviewed its existing 'visa system' and thereby streamlined the family based immigration through additional 'V' visas and 'K' visas for the families of green card holders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Indian spouses and children who are likely to be benefited thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the Legal Immigration Family Equity (LIFE) Act Amendments, the U.S. Government has introduced new categories of non-immigrant visas termed as 'K' and 'V' visas.

The 'K' and 'V' visas are meant for the spouse and children of a U.S. citizen and a lawful permanent U.S. resident respectively, to enable them to live in the U.S. while awaiting their immigration process to be completed. The number of likely beneficiaries has not been estimated.